

REMARKS

By this present Amendment, Applicants add new claims 68 and 69. Accordingly, claims 62-69 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 62-66 are withdrawn from consideration.

Election/Restrictions

With this Amendment, Applicants confirm the effective election of Group III, claim 67. Claims 62-66 are currently withdrawn.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Martinez (U.S. Patent 3,661,304). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 67 recites, *inter alia*, “the feeding system supplies different distribution pressures p1 and p2 during a printing operation and supplies a pressure p3 during a cleaning operation; and wherein $p1 > p2$ and $p3 > p1$.” In other words, claim 67 specifically recites that two different pressures (p1 and p2) are used during printing, and that a third pressure (p3), greater than the first two pressures, is used during cleaning.

The Examiner again acknowledges that Martinez fails to teach a third cleaning pressure greater than two printing pressures, but the Examiner alleges that “it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use compressed air, etc., in such a fashion to clean the components of the systems.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, the Examiner has merely made a conclusory statement that the claimed cleaning pressure p3, greater than the p1 printing pressure, would have been obvious. The Examiner has failed to provide any support for this statement either in the art as cited or in the knowledge

available to one of skill in the art at the time of the present invention. Applicants note that the Examiner may not rely on official or judicial notice at the exact point where patentable novelty is argued, but must come forward with pertinent prior art.

Second, Applicants respectfully submit that Martinez does not teach or suggest the feeding system supplying a different pressure during a cleaning operation. In fact, Martinez is completely silent about a cleaning operation and supplying different pressures for a cleaning operation. Furthermore, Martinez is mainly concerned with introducing a large momentum into the fluid supply passages as an initial phase to provide clean start up. The momentum is in the form of a fast rising pressure pulse or shock which travels down to the orifice temporarily creating a high effective Webers' number and producing a clean start. As such, the start up pressure is the highest pressure (high Weber's number) produced by the system of Martinez. Therefore, Martinez at most discloses two pressures, the start up pressure using shock attenuation and the normal printing pressure. Accordingly, the system of Martinez would not be able to provide the claimed relationship between the pressures where a cleaning pressure p_3 is greater than distribution pressure p_1 and p_2 . That is, since the start up pressure would be the highest pressure produced by the system of Martinez, Martinez does not teach or suggest a cleaning pressure p_3 higher than the start pressure. Any modification to the system of Martinez to include the pressure relationship of the claimed invention would require significant alteration to the system of Martinez and change the primary functions of the system.

Third, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use compressed air, etc., in such a fashion to clean the components of the systems. However, using compressed air does not teach or suggest how the claimed feeding system supplies

different distribution pressures p_1 and p_2 during a printing operation and supplies a pressure p_3 during a cleaning operation; and wherein $p_1 > p_2$ and $p_3 > p_1$. That is, merely providing a compression air does not teach or suggest the different distribution pressures and the relationship between them (i.e., $p_1 > p_2$ and $p_3 > p_1$). Also, using compressed air does not teach or suggest the claimed feeding system supplying the different pressures.

Moreover, even if using compressed air for cleaning were known to one skilled in the art, it would not have been obvious to modify the system of Martinez to use compressed air. In fact, Martinez specifically teaches against using compressed air. For instance, in column 1, lines 66-70, Martinez discloses that blowing the fluid out by air or vacuuming the orifice are time consuming. Therefore, Martinez clearly discourages and teaches away from incorporating the feature of a compressed air to the system of Martinez.

Applicants respectfully submit that at least for the reasons discussed above it would not have been obvious for Martinez to teach or suggest the features of “the feeding system supplies different distribution pressures p_1 and p_2 during a printing operation and supplies a pressure p_3 during a cleaning operation; and wherein $p_1 > p_2$ and $p_3 > p_1$ ”.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 67 is patentable over Martinez.

New claims

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 68 and 69 depend from claim 67, and therefore these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency and the additional features recited therein.

With regard to claim 68, Applicants respectfully submit that Martinez does not teach or suggest that the electronically interactive liquefied material is conductive.

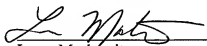
With regard to claim 69, Applicants submit that Martinez does not teach or that “the at least one chamber comprises an upper part and a lower part, and wherein the upper part is an air chamber and the lower part contains the liquefied material.” Further, Applicants respectfully submit that tank 20 cannot correspond to the claimed at least one chamber, because Martinez specifically teaches against any air space in tank 20 in order to attain a desired shock attenuation (column 2, lines 72-75).

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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